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**Muscle Shoals Baptist Association**

v. 1. 1850

v. 2. 1854

v. 3. 1855

v. 4. 1858

v. 5. 1859

v. 6. 1861

v. 7. 1867

v. 8. 1871

v. 9. 1885

v. 10. 1887



v. 11. 1888

v. 12. 1891

v. 13. 1892

v. 14. 1893

v. 15. 1895

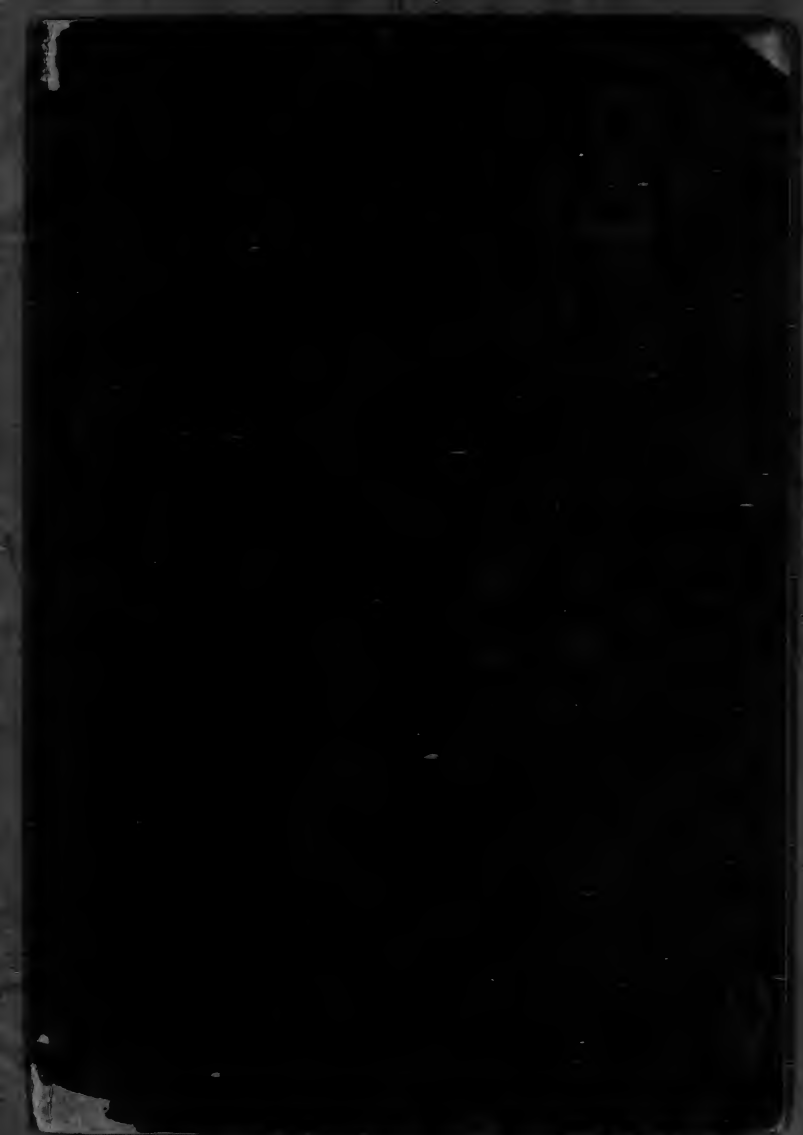
v. 16. 1896

v. 17. 1897

v. 18. 1898

v. 19. 1899

v. 20. 1900





## MINUTES.

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The delegates composing the sixty-ninth annual session of the Muscle Shoals Association of Baptists convened with the Russellville Baptist church, Russellville, Ala., on Friday, the 2d day of November, 1888, at 11 A. M. [The regular time was Friday before the first Sabbath in October, but on account of the yellow fever prevailing in Decatur, was postponed by the Executive Board to November 2.]—CLERK.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Jackson Gunn, from 1 Cor. 3:9: "We are laborers together with God." The subject of the sermon was co-operation. After the sermon there was a recess until 2 o'clock P. M.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened at the appointed time, and was called to order by the former Moderator, Elder Jackson Gunn, Elder Jos. Shackelford, the former Clerk, taking his place at the Clerk's table. Elder J. R. Nesmith conducted the religious services and offered prayer.

Bros. C. G. Lynch, John Speer and J. C. Orr were appointed reading clerks.

The following churches were represented by letters and delegates:

Tuscumbia—Amos L. Moody, John F. Belue, E. T. Throckmorton.  
Cherry Hill—J. W. Horton, J. S. Snow, J. F. Richerson.  
Russellville—Wm. East, Peter Clay, Joseph Walker.  
Macedonia (F.)—J. T. Tubb, E. R. Richerson, H. O. Henley.  
Tharp Springs—J. A. Quin, W. L. Thompson, T. J. Byars.  
Bethel (L.)—J. R. Nesmith, M. H. Golden.  
Mt. Stanley—W. H. Stanley.  
Town Creek—R. T. Wear, T. Jones.  
Moulton—Mat Lyon, W. D. Irwin, C. G. Lynch.  
Pleasant Hill—John Speer.  
Harmony—T. R. Bragg, J. W. Sandlin.  
Hillsboro—A. W. Bailey, W. F. Berry, W. S. Stephens.  
Decatur—J. Gunn, Jos. Shackelford.  
Mt. Hope—T. W. McVay, A. E. Bunnell.  
Enon—J. T. Wallace, A. J. Walker, R. L. Keys.  
Danville—J. G. Orr, W. T. Cobbs.  
Gum Springs (L.)—L. A. Muston, G. W. Bond.  
Lebanon—James N. Thompson.  
Hopewell—W. F. Orr.  
Friendship—Thos. McDaniel.

Hartsell—J. I. Stockton, J. D. McClanahan, A. M. Lee.  
 Mt. Pisgah—W. B. Carter, George Hughes.  
 Somerville—T. J. Weaver.  
 Bethel (M)—James D. Aikin. W. A. Belue.  
 Etha—J. P. Scruggs.  
 Falkville—J. M. Simpson.  
 Salem—J. M. Roberts.  
 Blue Springs—R. M. McClure.  
 Gum Springs (M)—Letter. No delegate.  
 Mt. Zion—Letter. No delegate.  
 Macedonia (M)—Letter. No delegate.

After the enrollment of the names of the delegates the Association proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder Jackson Gunn as Moderator and Elder Joseph Shackelford as Clerk.

The Moderator returned his thanks to the brethren for this renewed testimony of their confidence and favor, and declared the Association ready for business.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

On motion of Bro. R. T. Wear, a committee was appointed to prepare an order of business, consisting of W. B. Carter, W. H. Stanley, R. T. Wear and J. G. Orr.

The committee retired to prepare their report, during which time, on motion, Bro. M. Lyon was permitted to read an article on "Church Letters," which he was authorized and requested by the district meeting of the Muscle Shoals Association to prepare and present to the Association.

The committee on Order of Business made their report, which was that the order of business found in the minutes of last year be the order for this session, except that the 17th item be exchanged for the 10th item. The report was adopted.

No petitionary letters were received.

#### CORRESPONDENTS.

On a call for corresponding messengers, the following were received:

Bear Creek Association—Elder W. A. Agee.  
 Clear Creek Association—Elder James Hilton, B. Roden.  
 North River—Elder John H. Pool.  
 New River—Elder J. B. Huckabee, and also agent of the State Mission Board.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats. The following brethren were announced as being present:

Elder J. P. Shaffer—Agent of Howard College.  
 C. W. Hare—Editor of the Alabama Baptist.

Elder J. W. Stewart—Pastor Second Baptist church, Birmingham.  
 Elder W. B. Carter requested to be recognized as representing the  
 Foreign Mission Board at Richmond.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following  
 committees:

Devotional Committee—Pastor and deacons of Russelville church  
 and Bros. T. Jones and J. G. Orr.  
 State of Religion—R. T. Wear, A. M. Lee, T. J. Weaver.  
 Finance—W. D. Irwin, R. M. McClure, A. W. Bailey.  
 Documents—J. I. Stockton, John Speer, George Hughes.  
 Time and Place of Next Meeting—W. F. Orr, A. L. Moody, J. T.  
 Wallace, P. Clay.

On motion of Bro. William East, the Association resolved that  
 when it adjourns it will adjourn to meet at 7 P. M. and hold a ses-  
 sion of one hour, and then have preaching.

The Devotional committee reported that Bro. J. W. Stewart will  
 preach at 8 o'clock to-night.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

Prayer by Elder John Speer.

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The Association met at 7 P. M. Rev. W. B. Carter conducted  
 the opening services.

Correspondents were appointed to the following bodies:

Southern Baptist Convention—Elder D. W. Gwin.  
 Big Bear Creek Association—A. L. Moody, J. O. A. Pace, J. R. Ne-  
 smith, Peter Clay.  
 Mt. Carmel—J. T. Weaver, J. D. McClanahan.  
 Sulphur Springs—J. M. Roberts, J. I. Stockton.  
 Cullman—J. Gunn, J. C. Orr, John Speer.  
 Canaan—J. Gunn, W. B. Carter, J. C. Orr, A. M. Lee.  
 North Liberty—H. J. Halbrooks, W. T. Cobbs, J. I. Stockton, T. J.  
 Weaver.

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Male and Fe-  
 male Institute at Moulton, was read by Bro. C. J. Lynch and  
 adopted, as follows:

MOULTON, ALA., Oct. 29, 1888.

To the Muscle Shoals Association:

We, the trustees of the Male and Female Institute, beg leave to re-  
 port to you that we have a fine school with more than sixty pupils.  
 Prof. G. T. Howerton closed his school in June last. We then elected  
 C. G. Lynch principal, and Miss Vallie Williams assistant, for the  
 next (the present) session. We heartily recommend it to the Associa-  
 tion for their patronage. Board is cheap, at from \$7.50 to \$10 per  
 month. Tuition from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per month, music \$3.00, use of in-  
 strument 50 cents per month, art \$3.00.

We think we can furnish better advantages for less money than al-  
 most any other school.

The following are the members of the Board of Trustees: James S

Gibson John C. Orr, W. T. Prewet and James M. Doss, whose time expires in 1888; W. D. McDaniel, W. D. Irwin, A. J. Windham and W. M. Almin, whose time expires in 1889; H. B. Irwin, T. W. Lynch, N. G. Diles law and Dr. J. M. Clark, whose term expires in 1890.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. B. IRWIN, President.

C. G. LYNCH, Secretary pro tem.

On motion of Bro. C. G. Lynch, the report on Education was also read by the chairman, C. G. Lynch, who made some remarks on the general subject of Education.

Remarks were also made by Brethren Shaffer, Huckabee and Shackelford.

On motion, the subject of Education was made the special order for 10 A. M. Saturday.

After preaching by Bro. Stewart, the Association adjourned to 9 A. M. Saturday. Dismissed by Bro. Stewart.

## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, Nov. 3rd, 1888.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 9 A. M. Elder J. D. McClanahan conducted the devotional exercises.

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Elder J. M. Roberts offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Alabama Baptist be requested to publish the paper read by Bro. Lyon in regard to Church Letters.

Bro. C. G. Lynch offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have the Constitution and By-Laws of the Muscle Shoals Association printed in the next Minutes.

Bro. C. G. Lynch offered the following resolution, which was received, and lies over until the next Association for final action:

Resolved, That Article 1st of the Constitution of this Association be so amended as that the Executive Board of this Association shall be members of this body during their term of office.

### SPECIAL ORDER.

The report of the Board of Ministerial Education was then read by Bro. T. W. Lynch, and, after discussion by Elder J. P. Shaffer, who presented the claims of Howard College and the necessity for a Dormitory for that institution, a collection and subscription was taken up amounting to \$30.60, as follows:

Amos Moody, paid.....	\$ 5 00
Peter Clay, paid.....	5 00
John Millan.....	10 00
T. W. Lynch.....	5 00
Cash collection.....	5 60

Total.....\$30 60

The following resolution was offered by Jos. Shackelford, and adopted:

Resolved, That we request and urge our ministers to bring the claims of Howard College before their churches and people as early as possible, and ask them to contribute to the Dormitory and Endowment fund, and take up collections for the same.

Remarks were made by Brethren W. B. Carter and J. C. Orr, after which the reports were adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Education, would respectfully report: That we believe there is no marked improvement in the cause of education within the bounds of the Association. We admit that there are a few points where efforts are being made to build up schools, but we regret to say that the vast brotherhood of this Association do not seem to be alive to the great responsibilities resting upon them as such, to give their children that educational training they should have.

Let facts be submitted to a candid mind, to see if we are correct.

How many Baptists within this Association are sending their sons and daughters to their own school at Moulton? How many have boys at the Howard, or girls at the Judson? Why are not more of them at these schools? Is it because these are not good schools, and you prefer others? The Male and Female Institute at Moulton is in your own hands. If it is not what you wish it to be, call your trustees to an account. If it is not what you wish it to be, and you can not make it such, sell it out and invest your money where you think it will do more good. "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" The field is white for the harvest. Speak out and be heard. Let us be honest with each other; we can not afford to be otherwise.

We will close as we began. We, the Baptists of the Muscle Shoals Association, are not doing our duty in the cause of education for our children, and for our neighbors' children.

May he who has said, by his servant, "Train up a child in the way it should go, and when he is old he will not depart therefrom," guide us into all truth.

Respectfully submitted,

C. G. LYNCH, Ch'n.

#### REPORT OF BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The Board of Ministerial Education of the Muscle Shoals Association beg leave to make the following report:

The members of the board are J. Gunn, T. W. Lynch, W. D. Irwin, Thomas Hutchison, Jourd White, J. G. Orr and J. W. Hargrove.

The board selected H. J. Halbrooks to attend school during this Associational year, and the board agreed to pay him eighty dollars. The board has continued him up to the first of November, and would like to continue him through this Associational year, if we have money enough to do so.



The following is a financial report of the Ministerial Educational Board, to-wit:

		DR.	
1887.	Oct. 4.	To cash from Moulton church.....	10 00
		" received at last Association.....	53 35
	Dec. 23.	" from Russelville church.....	15 00
1888.			
	Apr. 30.	" " Town Creek church.....	1 75
		" " Hartsell church.....	5 00—\$85 10
1887.		CONTRA.	
	Oct. 4.	By cash paid Bros. Cobbs and Speer.....	\$ 8 50
		" " " Cobbs.....	5 05
		" " " Speer.....	8 65
1888.			
	Feb. 7.	" " " Halbrooks.....	12 00
	Apr. 12.	" " " ".....	10 00
	May 7.	" " " ".....	10 00
	June 5.	" " " ".....	10 00
	Aug. 13.	" " " ".....	5 00
	Sep. 25.	" " " ".....	10 00—\$79 20

Balance due Ministerial Educational fund..... \$ 5 90  
J. GUNN, Ch'n.

T. W. LYNCH, Sec'y and Treas'r.

Pledges and collections were taken up for Ministerial Education, as follows:

Moulton church.....	\$10 00	Enon church.....	\$ 5 00
Tuscumbia church.....	10 00	Hartsell church.....	10 00
Hopwell church.....	5 00	Danville church.....	5 00
Moulton S. S., paid Tr.....	5 00	Salem church.....	2 50
Hartsell S. S.....	5 00	Hartsell Prayer Meeting	
Town Creek church.....	10 00	of Baptist church.....	5 00
Decatur church.....	5 00	Mt. Pisgah ch., paid T.....	5 00
J. W. Horton.....	1 00	Mt. Hope church.....	5 00
Mrs. Belle Henly, paid T....	50	J. P. Scruggs, paid T.....	5 00
W. H. Stanley, paid T.....	2 00	Miss Patty Gunn, paid T..	1 00
Phil. Lynch, paid T.....	1 00	Miss Katie Pace, paid T...	1 00
3 boys and girls of T. W.		C. W. Hare.....	5 00
Lynch.....	5 00	Miss Glen Orr.....	5 00
Mrs. J. Gunn.....	5 00	A. J. Walker.....	2 50
W. J. Weaver.....	1 00	S. D. Sargent, paid T.....	1 00
Thomas McDaniel.....	2 00		
Total.....			\$121 30

Cash, \$17 50—Pledges, \$104 00.

The following Trustees of the Male and Female Institute at Moulton were appointed, viz: Theophilus Jones, J. M. Doss, W. T. Prewit, John C. Orr.

On motion of Bro. J. I. Stockton, the old Board of Ministerial Education was re-appointed, consisting of the following brethren: J. Gunn, T. W. Lynch, W. D. Irwin, Thomas Hutchison, Jourd White, J. G. Orr, J. W. Hargrove.

On motion, adjourned to 1:30 o'clock P. M.

Prayer by Bro. John Speer.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Opening services were conducted by Elder B. F. Riley, President of Howard College.

The subject of missions was taken up, and reports on Associational, State and Foreign Missions were read by the respective chairmen of the committees on these subjects, viz., John Speer, M. Lyon and W. B. Carter.

The reports of the missionaries of the Association were then read. Also the report of the Executive Board.

The whole subject of missions was made the special order for to-night, when these reports are to be discussed and acted upon.

Elder B. F. Riley was received as a representative of the Home Mission Board at Atlanta, and also as President of Howard College.

Bro. T. W. Lynch made the following report as Treasurer of the Association, which was adopted:

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

MOULTON, ALA., Oct. 31, 1888.

T. W. LYNCH, Treasurer,

To Muscle Shoals Association:

1887.	Dr.		
Oct. 4.	To cash from finance committee.....	\$489	50
	Vouchers.....	67	05
Apr. 22.	To cash from Russelville church, missions.	6	25
30	To cash from Town Creek .....	4	10
Oct. 1, '88	To cash F. C. Owen's bequest.....	20	00—\$586 90
1887.	Cr.		
Oct. 4.	Cash T. J. Weaver by Hartsell church.....	\$20	00
	J. Speer by Hillsboro church.....	12	00
	W. B. Crumpton by Hillsboro church.....	10	00
	W. B. Crumpton by Mt. Pisgah church....	12	05
	M. Lyon by Danville church.....	13	00
	Jos. Shackelford, clerk's fee.....	20	00
	Joseph Shackelford, minute fund.....	45	00
	T. J. Weaver.....	60	00
	J. Speer.....	68	00
22.	W. B. Crumpton, State Mission Board....	90	00
Jan. 9, '88.	T. J. Weaver .....	25	00
Mch. 6.	J. Speer.....	30	00
July 29.	Mat Lyon.....	10	00
Aug. 18.	Mat Lyon.....	20	00
Aug. 23.	J. Speer.....	10	00
Oct. 1.	M. Lyon.....	10	00
Nov. 2.	Mat Lyon.....	60	00—\$515 05

Amount on hand..... \$71 85

Respectfully submitted, T. W. LYNCH, Treasurer.

The report of the committee on Time and Place of the next meeting was then made and adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE.

We, your committee to whom was referred the recommendation of a church with which to hold the next meeting of this body, and some brother to preach the introductory sermon, recommend that the next Association be held with the Danville church, Morgan county, Ala., on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1889, and that Elder R. T. Wear preach the introductory sermon, and Elder John Speer, alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. ORR, Ch'n.

The following resolutions on church independence and authority of the Association were offered by Elder Joseph Shackelford, and unanimously adopted:

#### RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that each church has the right to control its own affairs in its own way, according to the Scriptures, and that in all matters of discipline, the churches have the sole authority to act, and their action is final.

Resolved 2, That this Association is only an advisory body, and claims no authority to interfere with the internal affairs of the churches, or to exercise any control over them in the management of their internal affairs, except in matters where they depart from the faith; and that this Association reserves the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith, or from the established usages and practices of our denomination.

Resolved 3, That it is the opinion of this Association that it is unbaptistic for churches or ministers to recognize as Baptist churches those bodies who are excluded members of Baptist churches, believing that such recognition is destructive to all church government.

Resolved 4, That it is the judgment of this Association that when one church has a matter of grievance against another church of this Association, it is the duty of the aggrieved church to state to the offending church the matter of grievance and ask for redress. If that church will not hear or right the wrong, then to ask other churches to assist in reconciling the matter, and if this does not avail, then the matter can be brought before the Association for settlement of the question as to which of those two churches, if either, the Association will retain in her fellowship. In this, however, we, as an Association, do not assume or claim to be a court of appeals for the churches, but simply to settle a matter of fellowship between consistent members upon gospel principles.

Elder R. T. Weaver read the report on the State of Religion, which was adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

We, your committee on the State of Religion, make the following report: The information brought us through the letters from the churches shows us that a majority of the churches have been revived. A few of them are in a lukewarm condition and are asking for the prayers of the Association. The gospel of Christ, which is the power of God, is being preached faithfully by our ministers so far as we know,

and many sinners are being converted to God. We would recommend to our ministering brethren and the churches more thorough consecration to Christ.

R. T. WEAR, Ch'n.

T. J. WEAVER,

A. M. LEE,

Committee.

Elder J. I. Stockton read the report on Documents, which was adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee on Documents report that we observe from the letters that some of our churches, in our humble judgment, have their letters too lengthy, requiring too much time to read them. We would recommend to our churches to make their letters as short as possible, but giving in full all the statistics, as number of members, male and female, baptisms, etc., and amount of contributions for the various objects fostered by our Association; also the amount paid their pastors, with the value of their church property.

Respectfully submitted,

J. I. STOCKTON.

On motion of Jos. Shackelford, Elder C. O. Boothe, teacher of Institutes and Sunday school missionary of the colored Baptist Associations of North Alabama, was permitted to address the Association and state the character of his work. He came forward and made a very interesting talk, which was well received by the brethren.

On motion of Elder W. B. Carter, Elder C. W. Hare, editor of the Alabama Baptist, was permitted to address the Association in the interest of that paper, which he did.

The Devotional committee made a report of appointments for preaching on the Sabbath, which were afterward changed as follows: Elder J. P. Shaffer to preach at 11 A. M. at the Baptist church, Elder J. B. Huckabee at 3 P. M., Elder Joseph Shackelford at night, Elder B. F. Riley at 11 A. M. at the Methodist church; Sunday school mass meeting at 9 A. M. at the Baptist church, to be addressed by C. G. Lynch and others.

Elder J. I. Stockton offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we commend the work of Elder C. O. Boothe, the Sunday school missionary of the colored Baptist associations of North Alabama, to the colored people, and we request our ministers and churches to aid him in his work as much as is within their power.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 6:30 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder Hilton.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The opening services were conducted by Elder J. D. McClanahan.

Elder John Speer offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the first speech be limited to twenty minutes, the second to fifteen, and all others to five minutes each.

## SPECIAL ORDER.

The subject of missions was taken up and discussed by Bro. B. F. Riley, J. P. Shaffer, J. W. Stewart, W. B. Carter, J. B. Huckabee, J. C. Orr and C. W. Hare.

At the request of the Moderator, Elder Jos. Shackelford took up the pledges and collections for missions, as follows:

## PLEDGES FOR MISSIONS.

## FROM CHURCHES.

Tuscumbia.....	\$ 20 00	Okolona.....	\$ 5 00
Russelville.....	125 00	Bethany.....	5 00
Cherry Hill.....	10 00	Town Creek.....	30 00
Bethel (L).....	10 00	Salem.....	5 00
Mt. Stanley.....	10 00	Moulton.....	50 00
Gum Springs (L).....	5 00	Harmony.....	15 00
Mt. Hope.....	25 00	Hillsboro.....	40 00
Macedonia (M).....	5 00	Enon.....	30 00
Danville.....	35 00	Pleasant Hill.....	20 00
Hopewell.....	25 00	Decatur.....	50 00
Hartsell.....	25 00	Friendship.....	3 00
Lebanon.....	5 00	Mt. Pisgah paid (F. C.) ..	43 00
Bethel (M).....	10 00	Shoal Creek (F. M.).....	5 00
Somerville.....	10 00	Blue Springs.....	12 00
Rocky Creek.....	5 00	Mt. Nebo.....	5 00
Falkville.....	5 00	Moulton S. S. paid F. C. ..	5 00
Danville .....	5 00		
Total pledges from churches and Sunday schools ..			\$658 00

## PLEDGES FROM INDIVIDUALS AND CASH.

T. J. Weaver and children..	\$ 5 00	A. L. Moody.....	\$ 10 00
J. P. Scruggs, wife and children, State Missions.....	12 00	Miss Glenn Orr paid.....	20 00
T. Jones.....	5 00	Mrs. A. C. Shackelford pd.....	5 50
Mrs. Bell Henley paid.....	5 00	A. M. Lee.....	5 00
Mrs. W. T. Cobbs paid.....	1 00	S. D. Sargent.....	5 00
Mrs. Mattie McCleskey paid.....	2 00	Miss Emma Stanley paid.....	1 00
Edward McClanahan.....	50	Robert McClanahan.....	50
Mrs. S. A. Speer, paid.....	1 00	Mrs. Gormon, paid (F. C.).....	5 00
Miss Lena Hargett.....	2 50	Mrs. Mary Carter.....	2 50
W. B. Carter.....	5 00	Chas. B. Carter.....	5 00
B. F. Riley, paid.....	1 00	Cash collection.....	14 60
Elkin Carter.....	2 50	Mrs. Ella Stanley, pd F. C.....	2 00
Total individual pledges and cash.....			\$118 50

The Reports on Missions, Reports on Missionaries, and Report of Executive Board, were then each respectively adopted, to-wit:

### REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Your committee on Associational Missions submit the following report:  
By Associational Missions we understand the work that is needed to be done within the bounds of the Association. From the Bible we learn that the blessed Savior commissioned his disciples to go first unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. No doubt but they went into the hill country of Judea, thence into the towns and cities, preaching the everlasting gospel of the Son of God unto those who sat in darkness and in the regions of death. We are proud of the fact that the same order of work is being carried out by the Baptists of this, our day. Your committee is at somewhat of a loss to say what would be the best plan to accomplish the most good with the limited means we have. Brethren, the demands upon us now are great, and the responsibilities are equally so. As the Stewards of God, should we not put forth an extra effort to meet these demands? We have destitution in our hill country, and in some of our towns and cities. In this destitution we need men, who are Apollos' like, "mighty in the Scriptures;" men who have the ability to expound the Word of God with simplicity and a godly zeal, that will take hold upon the hearts of those with whom they come in contact. In conclusion, we would recommend that our Associational Mission work be more concentrated, thereby relieving our missionaries of so much traveling, that they may do more preaching and mission work.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN SPEER,  
R. T. WEAR.  
J. I. STOCKTON,  
Committee.

### REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The spirit of Missions is identical, whether Foreign, Home, State, or Associational. Peter was designated as a Home Missionary to the Jews, and yet by special miracle he was sent to open the door of the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul was a "chosen vessel" to labor among the heathen, and yet came near suffering death in carrying the gospel to his own Jewish people. Jesus Christ gives his ministers plain commands to preach the gospel "to every creature," and instructs and enables his people to furnish those ministers the means wherewith to go and preach; for, "How shall they preach, except they be sent?" Rom. 10: 15. Our Savior leaves the details of business to the common sense of his people; but because the Bible does not tell us about a Foreign or a Home Mission Board, or a State Mission Board, many Baptists seem to think it a sin to help those man-made conventions that appoint those Boards to send the gospel to the poor and destitute and ignorant throughout the world. How can such Baptists indulge in the sin of attending as delegates to an Association, or make and keep a solemn resolution, (God helping them,) that they will hold meetings of their churches regularly once a month, and no more, when God never put such a thing as a Baptist Association or a once-a-month meeting on a certain Sunday and the Saturday before into his holy Word? How dare such Baptists buy a testament for twenty-five, ten, or even five cents, and a Bible for three dollars down to twenty-five cents, from a wicked man-made Bible Society, instead of paying old Bible-selling prices of from four to five times as much; and even to put those cheap

Bibles on their sacred pulpits; and how can they tolerate our missionaries in giving away thousands of Bibles and testaments from a Bible Society, that is freely filling foreign and heathen lands with copies of the Word of God; when the solemn truth is, that this Holy Book has not the name of such a wicked human invention as a Bible Society in all its pages?

But we think that we have the mind and the spirit of Christ, and that we ought to be liberal with what God has given to us, and to send the word of God, and the preaching of the gospel, to every needy portion of our State. For the year ending with the meeting of our State Convention last July, the Baptists of Alabama contributed over \$20,000 to benevolent objects; forty-four young ministers were assisted in procuring an education; and our paper, the Alabama Baptist, has been patronized better than ever. Baptists generally throughout the State are much more hearty in support of the objects of our State Convention. The ladies also, in many of our churches, are helping by special efforts, in good work, in which they ought to have the fullest encouragement. We concur heartily in the recommendation of the Secretary of the State Board, Bro. W. B. Crumpton, in favor of system in giving, on the part of church members; and also as to the duty of every member, young as well as old, female as well as male, to give regularly, each for himself and herself. A little given regularly, every week, or every month, by every member, would soon make our contributions to religious objects probably four or five times as much as they commonly are, and no one would feel oppressed from giving. There is a constant increase in the population and wealth of our State; in many portions of it there is great destitution in regard to preaching, both in town and country, and there is a great and growing demand for more enlarged liberality on the part of all of our people to supply the population of our State with the ministry of the Gospel, and with the Word of God.

MAT. LYON, Ch'n.

#### REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The great spirit of Foreign Missions brought the Son of God into the world, prompted by a love that called forth the astonishment of the apostle, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." For to be a child of God, we should accept the responsibility. "As my father sent me into the world, even so send I you into the world." It was Foreign Missions that gave to the world the gospel of life and immortality. Our Heavenly Father beholding our lost condition, and desiring to better our condition, comes out of his heavenly place,—sends his only begotten Son, clothed in human flesh, that he might approach so near to us that man could not fail to see the interest that heaven feels for him, saying: "I am the way, the truth and the life; he that believeth on me shall never perish."

The spirit of foreign missions called forth the words of our Savior: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." All nations are to have the gospel. "The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end cometh." An anti-missionary spirit is an enemy to Christ, for said He, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Again: "He that is not with me is against me." The Foreign Mission (spirit) is the legitimate parent of all missions, Home, State and Associational. Where Foreign Missions are properly fostered, all will be cared for.

Yes, the pastor will be supported. Again, this spirit will cause the man who God calls to respond, "Here am I, send me." Too many of us are saying to the churches, "Here am I, send me a few miles." We

as God's called men should say, "Send me any where in the field where I may work."

Brethren, when Judson started out on his grand mission, he looked of course to the churches, but beyond he saw a perishing world, and he heard the battle cry of the gospel: Go ye! Go ye! Ah! my brethren, have we ever heard the divine orders from the Son of God, Go ye? When it was announced before our convention that some one was needed to take the place of our fallen hero on Mexican soil, a Powell arose, and said, "I will go," and notwithstanding the martyr's blood was not cold on the ground, he entered upon the work, which is being blessed of God abundantly, and those converted are contributors of more than two dollars per member per annum.

Brethren, read of the magnitude of the work that lies out before us, as the host of God. Turn your eyes to the fields: Brazil, Italy, Mexico, China, with almost one third of the population of the entire globe. Oh, listen to the cries of Africa as well. All of those vast fields are receiving attention at the hands of our Board at Richmond, Va. Brethren, will we arm and go up and possess the land? Jesus said, "The field is the world." Can we, who only are giving to the world the gospel as it came from our God and King, sit down and allow those nations to die without God, and without hope in Jesus' blood? No, brethren, if our wives have to follow us, as did Judson's, marking their way by the blood of their tender feet. Such reminiscences should call to us to do more and better by the poor heathen and the great cause of Foreign Missions. More than a thousand million perishing souls stand this day crying to you and to me, Come over and help us ere we die and are eternally damned. And now, what will Muscle Shoals Association do?

God is asking what will you do? Oh! my dear brethren and sisters, awake! put on thy strength, put on thy beautiful garments, and go upon virgin soil, and do something for the cause of Foreign Missions that will help extend the kingdom of the Son of God on the earth. To-day the poor heathen stand on sinking sands, and hold out their hands to us in agony and tears, saying, "Save or we perish." Let us rally around our Foreign Mission Board, and give to it the money it needs, and God will give the men, and soon the world will have the gospel. Then will come the Son of Man and all the holy angels with him. Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly.

W. B. CARTER,

W. T. COBBS,

H. A. MCCLELLAN, Committee.

## REPORTS OF MISSIONARIES.

### REPORT OF T. J. WEAVER.

I was employed by the board for half of my time, at a salary of \$100, which time I have put in faithfully. Since the revival meetings set in, I have preached through nine protracted meetings, sixty-two days without rest; witnessed sixty-five conversions; kept up my appointments at Woodland Mills and Poteet's school house. We have not thought best yet to organize churches at these places. I have received

From the Board.....	\$25 00
Blue Spring, pledge.....	10 00
Rocky Creek church.....	5 00
Somerville church.....	10 00
Hartsell church.....	7 50
Sister W. B. Carter.....	2 00
Falkville.....	5 00

Total..... \$64 50



Dear brethren—My soul was made happy many times in this great work. God bless the Association is the prayer of your missionary,  
T. J. WEAVER.

#### REPORT OF JOHN SPEER.

Dear Brethren—At the request of your Executive Board I accepted work as your missionary in District No. 1. I agreed to work one-fourth of my Saturday and Sunday time at the following named places: Town Creek Station, Leighton Station, and at some other point which I might select. This work I agreed to do, under God, for one hundred dollars. I entered upon my work immediately after my appointment. In April your board, in its wisdom, saw fit to transfer my work to New Decatur. Work as follows: Miles traveled, 275; sermons preached, 30; religious visits made, 207; family worship conducted, 96; subscribers to the Alabama Baptist, 6. I have received on my salary thirty dollars.

Humbly submitted,

JOHN SPEER.

#### REPORT OF MATT LYON.

I was employed by the Executive Board to preach on two Sundays in each month, from the first of April to the usual time of meeting of the Association, for \$100. I did much work not included in my contract, occupying in all 52 days; traveling, by estimation, 203 miles, and preaching 22 times. Besides this service, before my term with the board commenced, I voluntarily traveled from October to April, by estimation, 167 miles; preached 10 times, and occupied 14 days, for which I have received nothing.

I have received \$100 in full of my salary.

MATT LYON, Missionary.

#### REPORT OF W. B. CARTER.

I was employed by the Board to look after some churches in the Tennessee Valley that had no pastor—the churches in Town Creek, Mission Grove, Antioch, and Valley Grove. I did what I could; witnessed several conversions, found out the necessities of the field, and would recommend that a good man be located in the field for all his time, to serve Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Stanley, Town Creek and Leighton churches, and all others that may need his attention. I visited Courtland. We must have a house there.

I received money as follows:

From Bro. A. L. Stevenson.....	\$ 2 50
From Sister W. T. Collier, an old pledge.....	5 00
From Sister Elizabeth Ratliff, an old pledge.....	5 00
From Mission Grove.....	3 00

Total .....\$15 50

W. B. CARTER.

#### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

To the Muscle Shoals Association:

We, your Executive Board, would report, that we had a meeting immediately after the adjournment of the last Association, and in accordance with the instructions of the Association, ascertained what was due from us to the State Mission Board. We then found that we had about \$350 to operate on within the bounds of the Association. We appropriated \$100 each to Districts 1, 2 and 3, respectively. We placed Bro. Speer in District No. 1, Bro. Lyon in District No. 2, and Bro. T. J. Weaver in District No. 3.

Bro. Speer was instructed by the board to preach at Town Creek and Leighton, and at such other places as he thought best. Bro. Weaver was instructed to preach at Woodland Mills and Poteet's school house, and at such places as he thought proper.

The board appropriated 'o Sheffield \$25, and \$25 to Falkville church, provided we have that much money at the close of the Associational year unappropriated.

As per your instructions, to hold meetings with some of the different churches, we met with the Town Creek church on Saturday and Sunday, embracing the 2nd Sunday in July. Present—O. D. Gibson, C. G. Lynch, W. D. Irwin and Lucius Wear. We had interesting meetings on both Saturday and Sunday. Brethren Jones and Wear joined in with us in the discussions of the cause of Missions. We then adjourned to meet with the Enon church on the 3rd Sunday in July, 1888.

No members of the board attended but W. D. McDaniel and C. G. Lynch; so there was virtually no meeting of the board. C. G. Lynch made an address to the church on the subject of Missions.

In the Spring, at an informal meeting of the board, Bro. Speer was instructed to preach in and around Decatur, Bro. Carter having agreed to fill some of Bro. Speer's appointments.

We would most respectfully ask the Association that the pastors of the various churches be requested to take up quarterly collections for Missions and forward them immediately to the Treasurer.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. D. GIBSON, Ch'n.

C. G. LYNCH, Sec'y.

Elder B. F. Riley was allowed time on Monday to address the Association in the interest of Howard College.

The Moderator announced the standing committees, as follows:

Associational Missions—T. J. Weaver, J. R. Nesmith, J. C. Orr.  
State Missions—D. W. Gwin, R. T. Wear, Dr. Morris.  
Foreign Missions—Jos. Shackelford, J. I. Stockton, W. T. Cobbs.  
Temperance—John Speer, Wm. East, M. Finney.  
Sunday Schools—Matt Lyon, J. D. McClanahan, James N. Thompson.  
Home Missions—J. C. Orr, H. C. Gilbert, W. B. Carter.  
Education—J. C. Tidwell, W. H. Simpson, Jourd White.

On motion, the Association adjourned. Prayer by Elder J. I. Stockton.

SUNDAY, November 4th, 1888.

Services were held at 9½ o'clock A. M. in the interest of Sabbath Schools. Elder C. W. Hare opened the meeting by reading the Scriptures and prayer. After singing, he made a few comments on the Scriptures read. The report on Sabbath Schools was then read by Elder J. D. McClanahan, and discussed by Bros. C. G. Lynch, J. C. Orr, J. D. McClanahan and C. W. Hare. After which the Sabbath school meeting closed.

The brethren appointed to preach filled their appointments, and we hope the word was attended by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

Collections were taken up at the Baptist and Methodist churches for the sufferers at Decatur, amounting to \$53, which was to be sent to Dr. D. W. Gwin.

At night, after preaching, the Moderator called the Association to order to consider the subject of Temperance. The report on Temperance was read by Bro. J. C. Orr, and discussed by him and Bro. Pool; after which the Association adjourned to 8:30 o'clock Monday morning. Benediction by Elder Jos. Shackelford.

MONDAY, Nov. 5, 1888.

#### FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The devotional services were conducted by Elder J. W. Stewart.

The minutes of the preceding days were read, corrected and approved.

The report on Sunday Schools was adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report: We find that there has been an increase in the Sabbath school cause. There has been a better attendance both by the children and adults, but not as much as should be. We find that some of the churches have not a Sunday school. We would earnestly recommend that each church have a Sabbath school organized in it, and that the delegates to this Association earnestly solicit their churches to have a Sabbath school. Our observation leads us to the conclusion that the responsibility of church and State must soon fall on our sons and daughters. We see that some of the greatest revivals of religion spring up where the Sabbath school has been well attended. We would recommend the Bible and Baptist literature to be used in the Sabbath schools.

J. D. McCLANAHAN, Ch'n.

The report on Temperance was then taken up and discussed by Bros. Hare and J. C. Orr and then adopted, as follows:

#### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance submit that the word temperance is susceptible of a very liberal construction, and is often abused by church members as well as churches, hence a church member goes out and gets drunk Saturday night and takes the sacrament Sunday. We prefer the word prohibition, which means if we cannot prevent men from drinking, we can prohibit them from staying in the church. In the Sunday school lesson for this week we learn that the Lord announced a prohibition law, and it was violated by Achan, and the anger of the Lord was kindled not only against Achan, but against the children of Israel; and Joshua fell down on his face and wept, as our churches are now weeping over the debauches of her members, but the Lord said unto Joshua, "Get thee up, wherefore liest thou there upon thy face?" get up and do something, and the Lord instructed him what to do. We feel that the time has come for the church to do something, hunt out the guilty ones and save them, that the blessings of the Lord

may return to her, that she may put on the habiliments of righteousness, and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

J. C. ORR,  
WM. STANLEY,  
T. J. WEAVER,  
Committee.

Bro. Amos Moody offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Board shall consist of the following brethren: O. D. Gibson, C. G. Lynch, Thomas W. Lynch, William D. McDaniel, T. J. Hutchinson, William M. Irwin, A. W. Bailey, William East and N. G. Dilleshaw.

Elder R. T. Wear offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the missionary money of this year be divided as follows: Seventy-five dollars to the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va.; \$75 to the Home Mission Board at Atlanta, Ga., and \$150 to the State Mission Board at Marion, Ala. The balance to be used in this Association.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be authorized and instructed to send the same to these respective boards, deducting whatever amounts that may have already been sent to these boards by the churches, and so reported to this Association during the past year.

Bro. C. J. Lynch offered the following resolution of thanks, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due and hereby tendered to the citizens of Russelville and vicinity for the hospitality shown us.

Elder Joseph Shackelford offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we commend to our churches the propriety and importance of contributing to the church building fund, under the management of the board located at Anniston. This is a worthy object, and should be sustained by our people.

Bro. C. G. Lynch offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay the Clerk his fee of \$20, and the minute fund, and to supply the deficit in the minute fund from any funds in his hands not otherwise appropriated.

Elder R. T. Wear offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we have 1,000 copies of minutes published.

The Finance committee made their report as follows, which was adopted:

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES, SUNDAY-SCHOOLS —AND— INDIVIDUALS.	Ministerial Education.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Minute Fund.
Enon .....	\$ 8 95	\$ 28 50	\$ .....	\$ 1 50	.....	\$ .....
Mt. Pisgah .....	5 00	12 50	23 50	.....	.....	2 00
Bethel, Morgan County .....	5 00	40 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Moulton .....	.....	50 00	.....	.....	.....	2 50
Falkville .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Hillsboro .....	5 00	33 40	6 00	.....	.....	1 50
Gum Springs, Morgan County .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Bethel, Lawrence County .....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Tharp's Springs .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Hopewell .....	5 00	25 00	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Mt. Hope .....	.....	25 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Tuscumbia .....	10 00	.....	14 55	.....	.....	1 00
Russellville .....	5 00	74 70	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gum Springs, Lawrence County .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Harmony .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	5 00	.....
Town Creek .....	10 00	30 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rocky Creek .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Salem .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Lebanon .....	.....	4 50	.....	.....	.....	1 10
Blue Springs .....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shoal Creek .....	.....	4 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Miss Pattie Gunn .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phil Lynch .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miss Katie Pace .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S. D. Sargent .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. H. Routh .....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. Gunn .....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
W. J. Weaver .....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sunday Collections .....	.....	7 15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. A. H. Stanley .....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miss Emma Stanley .....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cherry Hill .....	.....	7 50	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Etha .....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Somerville .....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Macedonia, Morgan County .....	.....	4 40	.....	.....	.....	30
Decatur .....	.....	.....	25 00	.....	.....	1 00
Moulton Sunday-school .....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	5 00	.....
Hartselle .....	.....	38 00	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Pleasant Hill .....	.....	24 00	.....	.....	.....	75
Macedonia, Franklin County .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Friendship .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Hillsboro Sunday-school .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Grove .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 25
Mt. Zion .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Danville .....	.....	32 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
C. W. Hare .....	.....	5 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. Jones .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jonathan Sandlin .....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. Mittie Wear .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. E. A. Shoemaker .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. P. Scruggs .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
W. H. Stanley .....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. McDaniel .....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. Ella Stanley .....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00	.....
Miss Anna Shackelford .....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miss Glen Orr .....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. A. C. Shackelford .....	.....	5 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. Bell Henley .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collections Saturday night .....	.....	15 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mrs. Mary Gorman .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Stanley .....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Mrs. M. McClesky .....	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	\$ 86 70	\$ 544 65	\$ 69 65	\$ 2 50	11 00	\$ 30 65

Total cash received.....	\$56 95
Total vouchers.....	148 20—\$745 15
By amount paid over to Treasurer.....	\$56 95
By amount of vouchers.....	148 20—\$745 15

Respectfully submitted; W. D. IRWIN, Ch'm.

The minutes were then read and approved.

There being no further business, the Association, after singing a parting hymn and giving the parting hand, joined in prayer with Bro. John C. Orr. After prayer the Moderator closed the body.

Adjourned to meet with the Danville church, Morgan county, Ala., on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1889.

J. GUNN, Moderator.

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Clerk.

## REVISED CONSTITUTION.

We, a part of the Baptist churches in the State of Alabama, having been thrown in the same section of country by the providence of God, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us; and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, propose to maintain and keep the order and rules of an Association of churches, according to the following plan:

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 2. The letters from the churches shall give the numbers baptized, received or dismissed by letter, excommunicated, and died during the associational year; also, the total number of communicants in the several churches, and whatever other information that may be of interest or desirable to the Association.

ART. 3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, who shall have no power to interfere with the organization or government of the churches, but shall be considered merely an advisory council on questions concerning organization and government. It is, however, agreed that the Association shall have power to exclude any church or churches from the union who shall hold doctrines not set forth in the declaration of faith.

ART. 4. Every church in the union shall be entitled to three delegates. Should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the cause in her letter to the next Association.

ART. 5. A church may be admitted into the union, who shall petition by letter and delegates, if upon examination she is found orthodox and orderly, and the reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. The Association shall elect annually a Moderator and Clerk from her delegates. The Moderator shall preside over her deliberations, preserve order, and see that the rules of order are faithfully observed; decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Association by the request of any two members; give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall take correct minutes of the proceedings of the Association, and superintend their publication and distribution among the churches.

ART. 7. Any query or queries concerning the union, or state of the churches that is sent to the Association by a church, must be included in her letter. Such queries may be also presented by an individual delegate. In such case, upon motion made and seconded, such query or queries shall be answered as soon as an opportunity will permit.

ART. 8. The Association shall adopt that plan for raising an associational fund to defray her expenses which she in her wisdom judges to be most successful and acceptable to the churches generally, which fund shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for said fund of money, and shall pay it out as she directs.

ART. 9. The Association shall adopt the declaration of faith contained in the Baptist Church Manual by Rev. J. Newton Brown, published by the American Baptist Publication Society in Philadelphia, as her declaration of faith.

ART. 10. All questions shall be decided by the vote of a majority, except the case mentioned in another section of this constitution.

ART. 11. The Association shall select, annually, one of her ministers to preach the introductory sermon to, and a delegate to write the circular letter for, the next session of the Association.

ART. 12. The Minutes of the Association shall be read, approved, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

ART. 13. No alterations of this Constitution shall be made without an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at an annual meeting, nor unless the same shall have been proposed at a previous annual meeting.

### RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and he shall not proceed until his name is called by that officer. If more than one member shall rise to speak at the same time the Moderator shall determine who shall speak first.
3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.
4. Every motion, made and seconded, shall come under consideration of the Association. A mover may not modify or withdraw his own motion, after discussion, if any member object, without a formal vote; nor may a mover accept an amendment to his proposition after discussion, without its being passed by vote, if any member object. A mover shall reduce his proposition to writing at the request of the Moderator or any member.
5. When a motion has been regularly announced by the Moderator no other motion shall be received, except to amend, to substitute, or to lay upon the table definitely or indefinitely. But a motion for adjournment shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking or the house voting.
6. When a question has been taken up, after allowing time for the debate, the Moderator shall put the question to the vote of the Association, first in the affirmative, and then in the negative. Those voting in the affirmative shall say "aye," those in the negative, "nay." If the decision be doubtful, the members voting in the affirmative shall first rise and stand to be counted, then those in the negative. The decision thus made shall be immediately announced by the Moderator.
7. No member shall absent himself without permission from the Moderator.
8. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without the consent of the Moderator, unless it be to correct when misunderstood.
9. The Moderator shall be allowed to speak as other members, provided he appoint some member to fill the chair while speaking.
10. These rules may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.



# STATISTICAL TABLE OF MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	Sabbath of Meeting.	INCREASE BY			DECREASE BY			Males.	Females.	Total.	Ministerial Education.	State Missions.	Associational Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Pastor's Salary.	Minutes.	Sunday-schools, Teachers and Pupils.	Church Expenses.	Sunday-school Contributions.	Value of Church Property.
				Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.														
Tuscumbia		Tuscumbia	Every.	4	12		1		1			58	\$10 10	\$14 55				\$300 00	1 00	1 58			\$1200 00
Sheffield		Sheffield																					
Russellville	R. T. Wear	Russellville	1-3	15	11	1	5	4	2	56	85	141	5 00		100 00			200 00	1 00	1 40			1300 00
Cherry Hill	J. O. A. Price	Newburg		4					1			47		7 50				40 00	1 00				
Tharp's Spring	J. O. A. Price	Tharp Spring				1	3			18	30	48			5 00				1 00				
Macedonia, Franklin Co.	M. Finney	Newburg		7	6		15		9			82			5 00				1 50			400 00	
Bethel, Lawrence Co.	J. R. Nesmith	Avoca		8	2	1	10	3	1			179			10 00				1 50	1 25		500 00	
Mt. Pleasant	No representation	Leighton																				500 00	
Mt. Zion, Lawrence Co.	J. R. Nesmith					1	3	7	4	17	35	52							50	1 20			
Mt. Stanley		Town Creek		5						4	12	16			5 00				1 00			800 00	
Okolona	No representation	Hatton								27	29	56							1 00			200 00	
Bethany	J. M. Roberts	Courtland										156											
Town Creek	R. T. Wear	Mt. Hope								89	154	243	10 00		30 00					1			800 00
Mission Grove	No representation	Courtland					9																
Salem	J. M. Roberts	Moulton		2	3	1	6					70							1 00				
Harmony	T. R. Bragg	Moulton		6	4				1	24	31	55	1 00			5 00							
New Hope	No representation	Courtland								17	26	43											
Mt. Hope	R. T. Wear	Mt. Hope			6							24			25 00				1 00				
Hillsboro	Jos. Shackelford	Hillsboro	1-3	1			1	1	1			68	5 00	6 60			150 00		1 50	1 50	2000 00	5 00	2000 00
Zion	Wm. Spain	Courtland																					
Pleasant Grove	T. R. Bragg	Moulton		6								28							1 25				
Moulton	Mat. Lyon	Moulton		1	2		5					48	10 00		50 00			150 00	2 50	1 47		10 00	
Gum Springs, Lawrence Co.	J. M. Roberts	Hatton		8	4					28	47	75			5 00				1 00	1 49			
Enon	W. T. Cobbs	Falkville		11	6		4		7			178	8 05		28 50		1 50	125 00		1 54			500 00
Pleasant Hill	W. T. Cobbs	Simpson		2	6		13					18			18 00								500 00
Macedonia, Morgan Co.	John Speer	Flint		6	5					32	28	60			4 40				30			200 00	
Decatur	D. W. Gwin	Decatur	Every.	2	55		11		2			80		25 00					1 00	1 25			800 00
Danville	W. T. Cobbs	Danville	1-3	1	9		7			17	18	35			32 00		21 40	85 00					
Lawrence	J. D. McClanahan	Danville		2	11		1	3				123	5 00		25 00				1 50	1 40			400 00
Lawrence	J. Gunn	Hartselle			6		2			31	24	45	5 00		38 00			100 00	1 50	1 43		5 00	1000 00
Lawrence	R. J. Weaver	Danville										80											
Lawrence	J. D. McClanahan	Falkville		3			1	2		30	43	73			4 50			35 00	1 10	1 55			
Lawrence	John Speer	Flint		6	1	1	22	4	3			121	5 00	23 50	12 50			50 00	2 00	1 55			500 00
Bethel, Morgan Co.	J. I. Stockton	Hartselle		4	8		9	1	1	36	50	86	5 00		10 00				1 00	1			400 00
Mt. Zion, Morgan Co.	No representation	Hartselle								33	52	85											400 00
Gum Springs, Morgan Co.	E. Roan	Falkville		4	3		3		1	15	40	55							1 25				
Sumner Creek	J. I. Stockton	Hartselle		4			6	1	1	30	52	82							1 00				200 00
Somerville	John M. Simpson	Somerville			2					12	17	29			10 00								
Blue Springs	J. E. Weaver	Blue Springs								62	51	113			10 00								400 00
Rocky Creek		Lawrence Cove										138			5 00								
Mt. Nebo	W. T. Cobbs	Cedar Plains		12	5		3		3	23	33	56						50 00		1 45			
Etha	T. J. Weaver	Southern		11	12		3		1			33			2 50				1 50				300 00
New Friendship		Southern										39											
Falkville	J. E. Weaver	Falkville			2					4	10	14			5 00			50 00	1 00		350 00		400 00
Total				147	190	9	144	31	38	653	940	2486	\$70 05	\$60 65	\$48 50	\$5 00	\$22 90	\$1335 00	\$30 18	591	\$2,350 00	\$200 00	\$15,100 00

REMARKS.—As per last report. Total number of churches, 44; total membership, 2,486. Total contributions: For Missions, \$528.85; for Ministerial Education, \$70.05 from churches, and \$15 from Sunday-schools, making \$85.05; Minute Fund, \$30.65; public collection, \$7.15; for Decatur sufferers, \$53.00. Contributions from individual members: For Missions, \$68 50; for Education, \$26.75. Total for Missions, \$68.50; for Education, \$111.80. Church expenses and building, \$4.30. The amount for church building is not reported except from two churches. We know of five new church houses erected during the past year. The decrease in membership is owing to the fact that some churches have revised their church rolls. Total contributions for Missions and Ministerial Education, \$770.30; pastors' salary, \$1335.—CLERK.

